



'Crescent Night' performers at Tuesday's premier blend dance, music and song to portray different aspects of traditional and modern Jordan

NHF's Theatre-in-Education presents 'Crescent Night'

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday night attended the premier of the musical choreography 'Crescent Night' produced by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's Theatre-in-Education Programme — at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman.

Choreographed by Rania Kambawi, designed and directed by Lina Al Tal, 'Crescent Night' portrays different aspects of traditional and modern Jordan through a blend of dance, dabkeh, rhythm, melody and song. It highlights Jordan's distinct seasons and colourful landscapes, the Jordanian people's attachment to the land, to warm family relations and to the spirit of tolerance and cooperation.

Through dance and poetry, 'Crescent Night' also brings to the stage the adverse effects of war and famine on the world's children and accentuates Jordan's aspirations for peaceful co-existence in a harmonious world.

Personally supported by Queen Noor who actively promotes understanding of Jordanian society and culture at the international level, 'Crescent Night' will be featured at the International Children's Festival (ICF) at Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts in Vienna, Virginia, in the U.S. this September.

The ICF provides young people from 23 countries with the opportunity for cross-cultural interaction and understanding as a step towards a more peaceful world.

This musical production reflects NHF's integrated development endeavours to promote and enhance Jordan's culture, heritage and the arts: NHF's National Music Conservatory provided the musical talent through its director, staff and performing students, and, NHF's Jordan Design and Trade Centre — which trains and supports women to produce quality Jordanian handicrafts — provided the stage setting and

artifacts which added a decorum emanating from Jordan's rich culture and tradition.

The Theatre-in-Education Programme attempts, through the creative medium of drama, to transform Jordan's everyday life into a very enjoyable spectacle.

'Crescent Night' is the fifth theatre production of NHF's Theatre-in-Education Programme which was launched in 1987 to enhance the development of the educational process in Jordan through the creative medium of drama; and, to promote dramatic arts.

Queen Noor was accompanied by Her Royal Highnesses Princess Aishah and Princess Eman. Also attending were the secretaries general of the Ministries of Culture and Education, the NHF president, members of the NHF Board of Trustees, Mr. Douglas Keene, the Charge D'affaires at the American embassy and senior government officials.

Crown Prince Award competitors begin volunteer service in Tafileh

AMMAN (Petra) — Part of a group of university students competing for the 1993 Crown Prince Award and operating under Al Sabila Project Tuesday began voluntary activities to benefit the local communities in the Tafileh governorate.

In three days, the students will carry out maintenance work at schools and local charitable societies and will organise a seminar on the role of Tafileh in the Great Arab Revolt, in addition to organising visits to the Dana Wildlife Re-

serve. Al Sabila is operating under the supervision of Sharifa Zein Nasser who said that the project is backed by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The project seeks to spread its services to all parts of the country, noted Sharifa Zein. The Sabila group last week embarked on a large scale voluntary services drive in different regions including Tafileh.

The programme, which lasts

for 25 days, entails construction and maintenance work, opening water canals, dredging others and carrying out recreational functions including mountain climbing.

The same group, which is active in Tafileh, will later move on to Karak and Ma'an. Al Sabila project, introduced in 1990, encourages university students and other youth to volunteer and interact with local communities as a part of the competition for the Crown Prince Award.

Centre for the blind in financial crisis

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman-based Regional Centre for the Rehabilitation of Blind Women is facing a financial crisis now that most of the Gulf states have stopped providing funds for its operations, according to Sheikh Abdullah Al Ghanem, the centre's general director.

"Only Saudi Arabia and Bahrain are still providing funds for the centre which requires additional sums to cater to its growing needs and expansion," said Sheikh Ghanem Tuesday.

He appealed to the wealthy citizens of Jordan and local and regional organisations to extend assistance to the centre. "Each year the centre admits 60 new women aged 15 to 35 from various countries of the Middle East," said Sheikh Ghanem. They are provided full accommodation plus health care and clothing during their stay, and they receive training in knitting, weaving, sewing, handling telephone exchanges, music and domestic

science, Sheikh Ghanem explained.

The centre, which was founded in 1974 to care for blind women, also trains them to become independently mobile with the aid of a walking stick, he added.

"So far 75 women have graduated after learning a trade, enabling them to achieve their place in the society and earn a living," according to Sheikh Ghanem.

"The centre provides the women with JD 10 in monthly pocket money during their training and seeks to find them jobs after their course are completed. It also often provides sewing machines for them to work at home," Sheikh Ghanem added.

Referring to obstacles other than the financial matters, Sheikh Ghanem said the centre sometimes has difficulty in persuading the women's parents to send them for training at the centre.

"We are looking forward to setting up a large centre to care

for 200 rather than 60 women every year," Sheikh Ghanem said.

"It is hoped such a centre would provide education and training from the primary to secondary stages, and ensure jobs for the graduates," he continued.

As part of the efforts to raise funds for the centre, Sheikh Ghanem announced that a sponsored march will be held on Sept. 30 in Amman under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

"This march is intended to direct public attention to the needs of these women and to raise funds for the centre's projects," noted Sheikh Ghanem, who is also head of a Middle East committee for the care of the blind in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

On the committee are representatives of Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Yemen, Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Iran, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman and Afghanistan.

Education ministry reports on projects, building progress

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education is currently building 1,370 classrooms as annexes to existing schools run by the ministry in several regions for completion by the end of 1993, according to Abdul Razak Maani, director of the ministry's Projects and School Buildings Department.

At the same time work is under way for providing 168 school buildings with laboratories, libraries and workshops, he said in a statement Tuesday.

The construction of 152 school buildings which are being completed in three stages began in 1989, said Mr. Maani. The fourth stage will be carried out in 1994, he added.

The effort to build schools instead of renting buildings was motivated by the 1987 National Educational Conference which recommended an overhaul of the educational system in Jordan, said Mr. Maani, an engineer.

He noted that because of the ministry's implemented plans, the number of rented buildings has now dropped from 42 per cent before 1989 to 18 per cent at present.

Schools used for the two-shift system have also dropped from 16 per cent to 11 per cent, he said, adding that by 1998 there will not be a single rented building used for a school by the ministry.

Referring to other ministry achievements Mr. Maani said that since 1989, the ministry has set up two teachers clubs, one in Amman and the other in Irbid; and organised two scout camps one in Dibbin near Jerash and the other in Aqaba.

He said the ministry has started building its own warehouses to store textbooks in Amman and there are plans to build two other store houses, one in Zarqa and the other in Irbid.

In addition, work on three sports halls in Tafleeh, Shobak and Wadi Mousa are under way.

Mr. Maani said that the ministry now has 100 housing units for teachers in remote areas.

The right to occupy these units expires if the teacher decides to move to a different region, he explained.

In accordance with the plans formulated at the 1987 conference, the ministry is expected to build a total of 430 schools



The Ministry of Education plans to build 430 schools around the Kingdom, taking into account the annual increase in the number of the nation's school-age children (File photo)

around the Kingdom, while, taking into account the annual increase in the number of students.

Mr. Maani's statement came four days after the reopening of schools for the 1993-94 scholastic

year. At least 1.35 million students are back in schools for the first semester of the new year.

Civil service office plans amendments to internal system

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Service Commission (CSC) is introducing wide-ranging amendments to its own system aimed at transferring some ministerial authorities in Amman to the provincial governors and helping the government implement its decentralisation programme, according to CSC President Abdullah Ulayyan.

A plan to this effect has been prepared and will be submitted to the government for approval, Mr. Ulayyan said Tuesday.

Under the new plans, a governor is authorised to appoint new employees and transfer others upon the recommendation of a special committee chaired by the governor himself, added Mr. Ulayyan.

Furthermore, the CSC will shortly submit to the government for approving an integrated plan with job descriptions for public administration positions, he explained.

If the Council of Ministers approves the descriptions, the plan will be put into force at the beginning of next year, he added.

Explaining the work of the CSC, Mr. Ulayyan said the office does not create public administration jobs, but rather recruits candidates for the various departments to fill vacant positions.

It is hoped, he said, that the CSC will be empowered to hold examination sessions for the competing candidates in order to determine their potentials and capabilities before taking up government posts, Mr. Ulayyan added.

Referring to the applicants for public administration positions, Mr. Ulayyan noted that the CSC now has 57,756 applications, of whom 38 per cent are from male applicants.

Committees

(Continued from page 1)

It includes the secretaries-general of the ministries of planning and finance, the director-general of the Social Security Corporation, senior Foreign Ministry official Nabil Shukom and Audit Bureau Chief Adel Qudrah as well as a senior official from the Central Bank of Jordan.

Yousef Sayegh, head of the executive Palestinian side to the committee, could not attend the meeting because of "logistical problems related to travel," Dr. Dudia said.

Dr. Sayegh is based in Tunis and is an advisor to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat. He also heads the Palestinian side in the working committee on regional economic cooperation which is part of the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process.

PLO Executive Committee member Suleiman Najjar, head of the Palestinian side in the committee, did not attend the meeting, among those attending were Samir Barghouti, Samir Huleiyel, Atef Alawneh and Mahmoud Okasheh.

Dr. Dudia said a World Bank report on the Palestinian economy or a similar document reportedly drawn up by Harvard University experts in cooperation with regional experts were not and would not be part of the discussions of the economic committees.

In general terms, "it was a highly positive meeting and we exchanged views as the first step towards continuing consultations and coordination," he said.

Shipping agents to review consequences of sanctions against Iraq on Aqaba Port

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A meeting being held at the port city of Aqaba today is expected to focus attention on the severe blow Jordan's only sea outlet has suffered as a result of what officials describe as the overzealous enforcement of the sanctions against Iraq.

The meeting, which will bring together the agents of Sudan Shipping Lines in Europe and the Middle East, will also make a pitch towards convincing international shipping companies to resume their regular service to Aqaba.

"We will present a comprehensive report on the facilities and equipment available at Aqaba, which is a key port in the region despite the present setbacks," said Rimona Suleiman, assistant general manager of T. Gargour & Fils, agents of the Sudanese lines in Jordan.

The one-day meeting, attended by some 20 visitors in addition to local shipping officials and agents, will also hear reports ab-

out the impact of what many see as a de facto blockade of Aqaba as a result of the cumbersome inspection procedures and guidelines imposed by the enforcers of the sanctions against Iraq patrolling the Red Sea.

Translated into economic terms, these measures mean costly delays and diversions for Aqaba-bound ships. In turn, ship owners and charterers levy higher freight and related charges, making Jordanian imports artificially more expensive and leading to higher market prices for the consumer.

The delays also scramble production schedules of industrial units.

As a rule, shipowners and charterers quote higher freight charges for their ships to call at Aqaba, and this has also led to Jordan losing its competitive edge in the international phosphate and potash market, officials say.

Although Jordan's state-owned companies exporting phosphate and potash have not suffered losses, their profit margins have plunged since they have to buffer

the higher freight factor in the net prices for the buyers.

The Sudan Shipping Lines, a government-owned company established in 1962, has a special interest in Aqaba because of the regular calls of its fleet at the Red Sea port.

It has been one of the shipping lines regularly "barassed" by the U.S.-led naval task force patrolling the Red Sea, inspecting every vessel heading for and leaving Aqaba.

Despite what it sees as a deliberate targeting of Sudanese vessels in the enforcement campaign, the Sudanese firm has refused to suspend its services to Aqaba, said Mr. Suleiman of Gargour.

"In many cases, the company has declined to charge the importers the higher cost it incurred as a result of the diversion of Aqaba-bound cargo to other Red Sea ports such as Port Sa'id, Port Sudan, Hodeidah, Jeddah and Suez," he said.

By design or coincidence, a Sudanese shipping line vessel car-

rying iron pipes was among the first vessels to be intercepted and blocked from proceeding after the sanctions went into force. Since then almost every Sudanese ship calling at Aqaba has had some or another problem with the enforcers.

More than 40 international shipping lines had regular service to Aqaba prior to the Gulf crisis. The number has now dwindled to 15.

"We believe the Aqaba meeting will be an excellent opportunity to present Jordan's case to international shipping agents," said Mr. Suleiman.

"We have to convince the international shipping community of the significance of Aqaba and of the wisdom on resuming and opening regular services to the port."

Attending the Aqaba meeting will be Aqaba Ports Corporation Director-General Dureid Mahasneh and Sudan Shipping Lines Chairman Ali Ahmad Abdul Rahim along with senior management aides.

Wildlife experts address modern preservation methods

AMMAN (J.T.) — Three wildlife and rare species experts from the University of Maine in the United States, Tuesday delivered lectures on modern techniques employed in the preservation of animals.

The lectures were part of a four-day workshop organised by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) in cooperation with the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University and the University of Maine.

The focus of the discussions was the Shaumari Wildlife Reserve in the Azraq region.

"We are doing all we can to protect and save the lives of the animals kept and reared in the six wildlife reserves created by the RSCN in Jordan," said Maher Abu Jaafar, the RSCN director, at the start of the meeting at the RSCN.

In his address Mr. Abu Jaafar reviewed the RSCN's activities to protect those species threatened with extinction, pointing to its efforts to gather the rare species and keep them in these reserves.

Following the first session, the participants visited Shaumari Reserve.

In 1975 the RSCN established the Shaumari Reserve as the first rare species sanctuary in the Kingdom.

Its 320 square kilometres are



The Arabian oryx has been saved from extinction through the efforts of wildlife experts and concerned parties

entirely fenced-in to protect it from neighbouring grazing domestic livestock.

At present, Shaumari serves as a main breeding centre for locally-extinct or endangered species, mainly the Arabian oryx.

In the four-day workshop

several working papers dealing with animal management, planning for reserves and other related matters will be tackled.

Among the participants are representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Children's Society for the Conservation of

Nature in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, whose representative, Imad Al Atrash, presented a set of books and research papers by West Bank specialists dealing with birds of Palestine and other wildlife in the occupied territories.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Housing minister to attend conference in Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works and Housing Khalaf Hawari will leave for Cairo Saturday to take part in the 40th session of the Council of Arab Ministers of Housing and Reconstruction Executive Bureau, which will be held there on Aug. 29. The two-day session will focus on the preparation of standard Arab construction codes, holding specialised symposia on construction, housing and urban development. Meanwhile a team representing the Ministry left for Cairo Tuesday to take part in a four-day meeting by a technical committee. The delegation is led by Haitham Mreish, an advisor to the minister of public works.

NAF assists 453 families

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) last week paid JD 13,667 to 453 needy families in Jordan. The payment falls within the recurrent monthly payments for the needy, according to Khalaf Gheimeh, the NAF director general. The fund paid JD 29,500 last week to finance vocational training for 37 needy people.

Free medical day held in Shafa Badran

MADABA (Petra) — The Applied Sciences University Tuesday organised a free medical day at Shafa Badran on the outskirts of Amman to mark His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne. Doctors examined the treated patients and dispensed needed drugs free of charge. Participating in the day was Greater Amman Mayor Mamdouh Al Abbadi.

Jordan to participate in art festival in Syria

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the International Basra Al Sham Festival of Art and Culture, which will be held in the Syrian City of Basra during the second week of September. Also taking part in the festival will be Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Kuwait, Yemen, Tunisia, Palestine, China, India, Italy, Russia, Bulgaria and Armenia. The festival includes exhibitions of traditional industries, plastic art, books.

Over 50% pass community college exam

AMMAN (Petra) — The overall pass rate at the Comprehensive Community College examination is 55.99 per cent, according to Secretary General of the Ministry of Higher Education Ahmad Al Hisban. Dr. Hisban was speaking at a press conference Tuesday, during which he announced results of the comprehensive examination for the year 1993. He said that 10,831 students out of a total of 19,342, divided among 83 major subjects, passed the examination.

Islamic council appeals to U.N.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman-based World Islamic Council for Dawa and Relief Tuesday sent a cable to the United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali, voicing deep concern about the Croatian measures aimed at interrupting the work of Islamic relief organisations working in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The council called on Dr. Ghali to intervene with the Croatian government to stop such measures and ensure the smooth flow of international relief supplies and the freedom of movement of relief workers.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Shaker Al Shadi at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by 25 Jordanian artists at the Housing Bank exhibition hall.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Eshebeia Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre. The paintings depict Jordanian-Palestinian heritage, Jordanian antiquities, Arab Jerusalem, rural life and

natural scenery.

NEW GALLERY

- ★ Opening of new art gallery, "Dar al Fannan," of the Abdul Majed Shouman Foundation. Programme includes the permanent exhibition and the "Chair" exhibition in Jabal Lovelbedeh.

PLAYS

- ★ Play entitled "Crescent Night" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ Feature film: "Revenge of the Pink Panther" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

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Yinhe in deep waters

THE SHADOWING of a Chinese freighter by the U.S. Navy in Gulf waters since Aug. 3 may appear benign and insignificant in the short term. In the long run, however, the incident may end up triggering a chain of reactions in Peking with serious consequences for international peace and stability.

The Chinese ship, Yinhe, is suspected of carrying chemical weapons for Iran. But while there is broad agreement among the comity of nations that there must be an end to the manufacture and deployment of chemical weapons and other weapons of mass destruction by all countries, especially those that lack stability and democracy, the method for controlling the proliferation of chemical weapons must also appear to be just and reasonable. In the case of the Yinhe, the U.S. warships that are stopping the cargo ship from even leaving the Gulf waters are doing the wrong thing because they are there ostensibly to enforce sanctions against Iraq, not Iran. On this score alone, the U.S. action appears to lack legitimacy and therefore calls for an immediate rectification.

We have seen how U.S. naval forces can exceed their mandate in the Aqaba Gulf region as well, by pretending to act on the basis of enforcing U.N. Security Council resolutions on Iraq. The end result of this action is that free and unimpeded international shipping will be hindered with dire economic consequences for many states.

There must be a higher authority that controls such actions other than the State Department or the Defence Ministry in Washington. Small states affected by precipitous actions like this by the U.S. can take interference with their free shipping rights rather stoically. But the interference with the shipping of China is something else. The humiliation that Peking has suffered at the sight of one of its ships being stopped in high seas for inspection by a superpower could prod China into counteractions in order to stop future humiliations. Chinese authorities may soon conclude that the most effective way to do so is by seeking more aggressively the status of full superpower, on par with the U.S. itself.

China is a fast growing country, with one of the highest expanding economies in the world. It also has developed very sophisticated technologies and is therefore able, in a relatively short period of time, to meet all kinds of challenges to its pride and sovereignty. Washington is pushing Peking into that direction by intimidating and humiliating it in the way it has been doing of late.

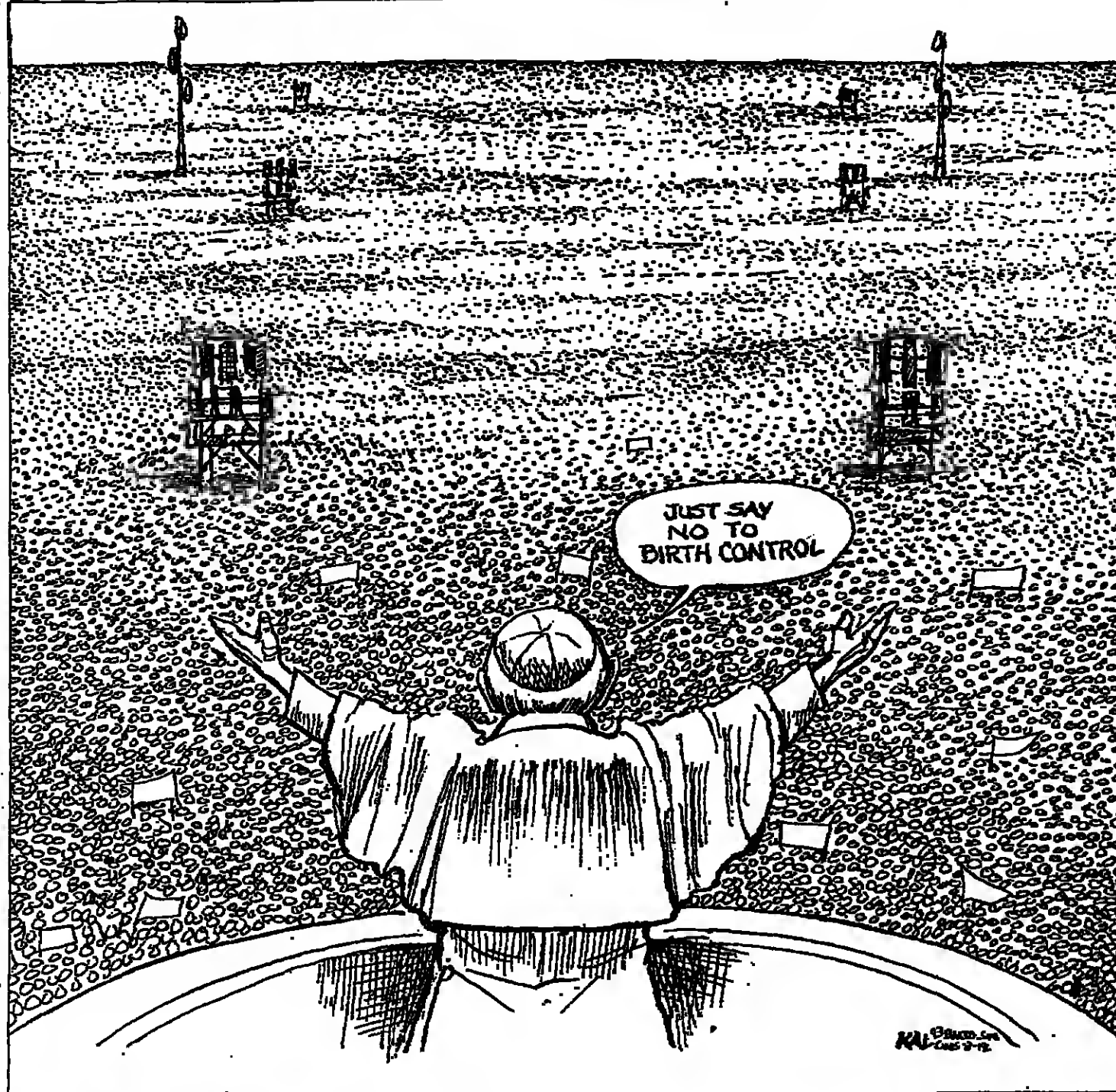
There is no quarrel with the proposition that the Middle East and the Gulf regions should be free of weapons of mass destruction. And so should, so many other regions of the world be. But there must be a better way to realise this objective than to resort to unilateral actions.

The most troubling aspect of the issue at hand is selectivity. There must be universal standards and rules for all countries, big or small, to follow. The international order must address problems of this nature in a more sophisticated and legitimate manner, well before the world is once again driven to the brink of nuclear terror.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE PEACE talks started in Madrid after the Jordanian and the Palestinian sides coordinated their positions and stands vis-a-vis the common cause and it is imperative on both to maintain these coordination efforts until the end, said Sawt Al Shaab daily. Indeed, coordination between the two sides served as the basis for joint action at the negotiating table, regarding Israel, and the Jordanians have to date refrained from taking any step without first ensuring that sufficient progress is being made along the Israeli-Palestinian track, continued the daily. The paper, which referred to King Hussein's statement in an interview with Agence France Presse, about the need for more coordination between the Palestinians and the Jordanians, said that coordination should involve the status of Jerusalem. The King said that there can be no solution without the settlement of issues revolving around the Holy City, added the paper. The King has made it clear that the first step on the road of ensuring liberation of occupied lands lies in Jordanian-Palestinian coordination at all levels. Referring to the projected confederation project, the paper echoed the King's words that only after the Palestinians have ensured their self-determination can such a step be contemplated. At the same time, and while coordination continues, the paper said, Jordan would never cease its full support for the Palestinian people, enabling them to regain their full, legitimate rights in their homeland.

COMMENTING ON the creation of the shura council in Saudi Arabia, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that such a step was in the right direction although it came late. Mahmoud Rimawi said that the council constituted the first step towards carrying out political reform, but still falls far short of other steps taken by other Gulf countries in this direction. In view of the developments at the regional and international levels and the increasing burdens on Saudi Arabia, there has been urgent need for political reforms and there were calls for such a step in the 1980s and early 1990s, said Rimawi. It is true that the Saudi leadership had achieved a lot for the people at the domestic level, but there is need for the people to sit in the rule of the country and there is need for more freedoms under the umbrella of the law, demanded Rimawi. He said it would have been better for Saudi Arabia to have a fully elected parliament rather than a shura council and various legislations and laws.



Novelists take on Mexico's political system

By Isaac A. Levi
The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — A bookstore chain is boycotting Rafael Loret de Mola's latest novel, which says some unpleasant things about the ruling party, and a pro-government magazine made a lengthy attack on the book.

While describing the short novel "Interim President" as "subliterature that slanders," the magazine, Siempre, acknowledged that it was "must reading in Mexican political circles."

Because of the boycott by the Sanborn's chain, which accounts for about one-third of book sales in Mexico City, Mr. Loret picked its branches and sells autographed copies on the sidewalk outside.

"If it's such an insignificant work, why does the magazine (Siempre) use two pages to say it?" Mr. Loret, 40, said in an interview. "and the sales people at Sanborn's give all sorts of excuses. That it hasn't been delivered, that they've run out and so on."

A few years ago, he might have been sent into exile for writing such a book, or quietly advised to leave Mexico for reasons of health.

The Institutional Revolutionary Party, known as the PRI, has wielded virtually complete power in Mexico since 1929, and criticising it can be risky.

At least 30 Mexican journalists have been murdered since 1982. After Mauricio Gonzalez de la Garza published "Last Call" in 1981, comparing the PRI to the dictatorship of Porfirio Diaz, two federal policemen put him on a plane for Texas.

Before "Interim President" was published, Mr. Loret was advised to leave the country because of his other critical writings. He went to France for four months.

Mr. Loret's father Carlo Loret de Mola, a former state governor, wrote books accusing the party of forsaking the ideals of the Mexican revolution. He was killed in 1986 — in a car wreck, said police, by assassination, said his son. The nearly complete manuscript of his latest book was missing.

Mariana Dornbier wrote in the newspaper Excelsior about the brothers of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and a deal to renew the Mexico City racetrack licence. She no longer writes for the paper.

Lately, dissident writers have been encouraged by a more tolerant PRI attitude.

Many of Mr. Loret's characters are thinly disguised officials of the current government, and there is much talk around water coolers of their real identities.

He and many of the other dissidents are or were journalists. Most of their books aim at the Salinas administration, which ends next year.

Among the favourite topics are corruption, electoral fraud and what the authors present as the secret wish of many presidents for more than the single six-year term permitted by the constitution.

"Journalists are writing in novels and books what they can't write in newspapers and magazines," Ms. Dornbier said.

After her report on the president's brothers, she said, "Excelsior dropped me and others didn't

want to have anything to do with me."

Why is the government being gentler with its new critics?

"Books do not have as much projection nationally as, say, television or radio," Mr. Loret said. "And probably the government feels banning them could create a worse problem."

A paperback edition costs \$7 or more in a country with a daily minimum wage equivalent to about \$4.50.

In Mexico, a president chooses his successor and the PRI experts, popularly called "alchemists," or "electoral engineers," take care of the rest.

Journalists are frequently bought and media chant the PRI candidate's virtues, largely ignoring the opposition.

Mr. Loret's "Interim President" approaches the question of electoral fraud tangentially.

President Cesar, yearning for a second term, designates his older brother Pancho to succeed him, thinking Pancho can be manipulated. But when Pancho becomes "the candidate," he starts making his own decisions.

A bomb blows Pancho to bits the day after the election and Cesar stays on, calling a new election without counting the votes.

This rubbed raw spots in high places, given rumours that the PRI wants to change the law prohibiting reelection, a sacred tenet of the 1917 constitution.

Since publication in February, Mr. Loret's novel has sold 20,000 copies. Selling a first printing of 3,500 copies is considered good in Mexico.

Ms. Dornbier wrote "Journalists Die at Night," about a news-magazine writer named Gil Duarte who is killed by machine-gun fire after the funeral of a journalist who also was assassinated. In heaven, he finds many assassinated colleagues.

"Journalists Die at Night" came out in June and also has sold 20,000 copies.

Anatomy of Corruption" by Gloria Lajous, another journalist, tells of embezzlement by officials at the Mexican Tourism Bureau in New York City.

Ms. Lajous, 73, worked in the bureau for 3 1/2 years. When the government sent auditors to check up on the real-life case, she said in an interview, they were bribed with a \$14,000 watch apiece to find nothing wrong.

Rafael Rodriguez Castaneda, 49, has written "Sold-out Press" a history of the Mexican newspaper business.

Mr. Rodriguez, managing editor of the independent news magazine Proceso, describes a relationship established between press barons and President Lázaro Cardenas in 1935, when newsprint was scarce and heavily taxed.

Mr. Cardenas set up a joint venture that imported paper duty-free and sold it to friendly newspapers on credit. According to Mr. Rodriguez, that put most newspapers solidly behind the PRI, essentially creating an official press.

Mr. Salinas said recently that the joint venture, still in business, was for sale to any publishers interested. There have been no takers.

To peace, by way of Jerusalem

By Milton Viorst

WASHINGTON — By all the rules of bargaining Jerusalem was supposed to be at the bottom of the agenda of the Arab-Israeli peace talks. In fact, under the 1991 Madrid agreement, Jerusalem — the most difficult and emotional issue — was not even supposed to be on the agenda.

Discussions about its future were to have been deferred for three years, while Palestinian autonomy was given a chance to work in the occupied territories. But the Palestinians have decided to go for broke in the talks, which resume Aug. 29.

They argue that they were coerced into accepting the Madrid rule by the Israeli refusal to deal under any other terms. They contend that Israel has shown few, if any, signs of a conciliatory spirit — in the talks and in its occupation of the territories — since the initial meeting at Madrid.

So why, they ask, should they believe that Israel will be more willing to grant concessions on Jerusalem three years hence?

The Israelis reply that a deal is a deal, and so far the United States, sponsor of the talks, has backed them. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has also said Israel will never give up any part of Jerusalem — a pledge that has given the Palestinians more incentive to face the issue now.

The Israelis say they need Jerusalem because it is the heart of Zionism. Jerusalem is a vision that nourished Jewish identity for 2,000 years.

But the Palestinians speak the truth in claiming Jerusalem is vital to their identity, too. Not only is it Islam's third holiest city but it has also been the heart of regional Arab culture through the centuries.

Must this dispute be a winner-take-all game in the negotiations? Jerusalem's geography, and goodwill, could resolve the problem. East Jerusalem is totally Arab, West Jerusalem totally Jewish. Even the Old City is delineated, with the Dome of the Rock and the Arab quarter to the east, the Western Wall and the Jewish quarter (along with the Christian and Armenian quarters) to the west.

A separating line would be easy to draw. Surely, the Zionist dream does not require Israeli rule over the Islamic holy sites, much less the kebab shops and, yes, the shams of East Jerusalem, Israel has already made a concession on this point, in agreeing that under autonomy East Jerusalem would be under Arab rule.

Wouldn't Israel be better off without having to rule 100,000 unhappy East Jerusalemers? The Palestinians are taking a risk in challenging the Madrid agenda. But a resolution of the question could be the breakthrough to something bigger. Isn't this the moment for an agreement to change the rules and to reach for a comprehensive peace? — New York Times.

alemites can vote in West Bank elections.

What Israel needs far more than Arab Jerusalem is recognition of its authority over the city's Jewish suburbs. Built since 1967 on land that was the West Bank, they are the home of several hundred thousand Israelis. A deal in which Palestinians conceded these lands in return for East Jerusalem would make sense.

International law still considers Jerusalem an international city, under the terms of the U.N. partition of 1947, Israel annexed West Jerusalem in 1948 and East Jerusalem in 1967, but neither Washington nor the world community ever recognised the action.

"A resolution of the question could be the breakthrough to something bigger. Isn't this the moment for an agreement to change the rules and to reach for a comprehensive peace."

No Arab claims to want Jerusalem separated again by a wall, as it was before the 1967 war. A proposed administration — a unified government of Arab and Jewish boroughs — would in theory be no more complicated than, say, running New York. It would also satisfy Israel's conditions, which Washington supports, of a city undivided.

An agreement on Jerusalem, so important to Palestinians, would surely make concessions easier for their negotiators. A peace that left East Jerusalem, with the Dome of the Rock, in Israeli hands would be a permanent invitation to Arab agitators to make trouble.

Wouldn't Israel be better off without having to rule 100,000 unhappy East Jerusalemers? The Palestinians are taking a risk in challenging the Madrid agenda. But a resolution of the question could be the breakthrough to something bigger. Isn't this the moment for an agreement to change the rules and to reach for a comprehensive peace? — New York Times.

LETTERS

Horrific cruelty

To the Editor:

THIS SATURDAY lunch time, my boyfriend and I saw a horse lying on a piece of wasteland in Abdoon, next to the British embassy. When we approached it, we were appalled to see that it had received terrible injuries. We informed the Jordanian guard at the embassy gate, who immediately called the Department of the Environment and the police. A nearby soldier called his superior and asked if he could shoot the horse. But unfortunately, none of the agencies were able to act at that time and the use of ammunition in the capital is restricted. Local vets were not available. After a long series of telephone calls which brought the matter to the attention of various people, they grouped together and put the horse down that evening.

Everyone who saw the horse, including those with veterinary training, agreed that its legs could not have been broken by an accident and that an act of terrible cruelty had been inflicted on the animal. The legs had been hacked with an axe or heavy knife and were completely mangled. I know from meeting the people in Amman, and from the number of calls received about the horse, that the people of Amman are kind and considerate and will join me in condemning the horrific wounding of the animal.

This sad case highlights the need for a system which can deal quickly and effectively with situations of this type.

Catherine A. Hurlin,
Amman.

To the Editor:

A GROUP of people was horrified at the weekend to find a horse, with two broken forelegs, dumped on a pile of rubble in Abdoon during the night. Apparently, someone had called the Jordanian Society for the Protection of Animals (JSPA) two days before the horse was found. But the horse had disappeared by later turned up again at the same place. It was discovered by workmen who came to work at a nearby house. The horse's legs were both severed and the horse was standing on the knee stump of one leg in the baking sun while calls for help were ignored.

Eventually, after a delay of several hours, a local vet did arrive and the horse was put out of its misery. Police help was not very empowered to act in such an urgent case when other help cannot be found?

Ali Kassar,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Blacks cheer Mugabe on, whites fearful

By Cris Chinaka
Reuters

HARARE — Many black Zimbabweans are cheering President Robert Mugabe on as he lashes out at whites opposed to his policy of making them sell their farms.

But Mr. Mugabe's tough words are sowing fear and uncertainty among whites, damaging delicate race relations and putting at risk economic aid from the West, political analysts say.

Mr. Mugabe capped two weeks of tough talking last Friday by threatening to deport those whites who continue to resist his plans to resettle landless blacks on their land.

"There is still white racism in this country. That's the greatest enemy we have. We want to be united against racism and whites should change or they will be kicked out of this country," he told a rally in southwestern Zimbabwe.

"The whites think they are more God's children than others

and they still look at their white skin as more precious and more divine than ours," he said.

The government plan is to make the white farmers sell five million hectares and resettle hundreds of thousands of blacks on the land in the next two years.

Under the Land Acquisition Act passed in 1992, the farmers cannot challenge in court either the selection of farms or the price fixed by the government.

Mr. Mugabe has said that if they do try to go to court the government might seize the farms without compensation.

"If it comes to the worst we can just take the farms without paying anything because... the white settlers never compensated our forefathers when they took that land from them," he said.

Mr. Mugabe has also said Western countries, specifically Britain, Canada and the United States, oppose the land reform for racist reasons but all three have denied it, saying they think it morally just to correct the imbalances of the past.

The white-bashing has gone down well in rural Zimbabwe, where the majority of his supporters live in poverty and continue to resent economic domination by the white minority.

"They are cheering him out there but his conduct is damaging the racial fabric and long-term policies," one analyst said.

Mr. Mugabe won power in 1980 after leading a guerrilla war against white settler rule in which he promised the black majority a greater share in the country's most fertile land, 80 per cent of which is still held by 4,500 white farmers.

During the seven-year war, both sides saw Mr. Mugabe as a radical Marxist who would exact revenge on the white settlers.

About half the whites fled Zimbabwe at independence, leaving a white minority of 100,000 in a country of 10 million people.

But on taking power Mr. Mugabe promoted racial reconciliation, a policy which won him much praise abroad and which has helped to hold racial tensions

in check over the years.

White Zimbabweans generally try to play down the economic disparity between them and their black compatriots, portraying themselves as equal members of a multiracial society.

"The words black and white must be removed from our vocabulary. We should all consider ourselves Zimbabweans. It is not ideal at this stage that each race should blame the other," said white radio personality Noreen Welch.

Opposition parties have also criticised Mr. Mugabe's attacks on whites, saying they are an attempt to win votes in the general elections which must take place by 1995.

"Zanu-PF (the ruling party), for partisan reasons, is whipping up racial emotions and fears. Such an approach is irresponsible and short-sighted," said opposition leader Enock Dumbutshena.

"I think Zimbabwe stands to lose friends and all that comes with friendship if this continues," said a Western diplomat.



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Economy

The Scunthorpe manufacturing plant of Citizen Europe — the leading European multi-technology printer company — has been awarded quality assurance certification to International ISO 9000 standards as well as to the equivalent British Standard (BS) 5750. These awards are testimony to Citizen's ongoing corporate commitment to the principles of total quality management worldwide and certify that Citizen's procedures and plant operations conform to recognised standards for manufacturing.

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S. African negotiators unveil 3rd draft constitution

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Legal experts Tuesday submitted a third draft of South Africa's future constitution to democracy negotiators, proposing the creation of a post of vice-president to be held by a person from a political party other than that of the president.

The president and vice-president will thus "lay a unifying role at a time when national reconciliation is likely to be a high priority," the draft said.

It suggested that the two, once elected, withdraw from parliamentary politics to help advance reconciliation, leaving day-to-day business to a prime minister chosen from the president's party.

With the president elected from the majority party and the vice-president from the opposition, "the vice-president will act for the president during his or her absence, but will not necessarily be subordinated to the office of president if it should become vacant," the draft said.

It said the president should be elected by the National Assembly within 15 days of South Africa's first non-racial election, set for April 27.

The latest draft avoids the thorny issue of federalism, leaving it up to a special committee set up after the first and second drafts drew fierce criticism from the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) and right-wing groups that fear they will be swamped by an African National Congress majority.

The drafts submitted so far are for a temporary basic law to be debated and ratified at the democracy forum before being rewritten — save for immutable constitutional principles — by a Constitutional Making Body (CMB) to emerge from the April 27 poll.

Top government negotiator Roelf Meyer told the South African Press Association (SAPA) Tuesday that a final draft should be ready for ratification at a special session of parliament in October.

IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi has rejected the first two drafts out of hand and is against the very notion of a CMB, demanding instead that a panel of experts draw up a definitive constitution on the basis of suggestions by democracy negotiators.

The IFP and the white right-wing Conservative Party abandoned talks on July 2 in protest over the setting of the election date.

Meanwhile four people were killed, one a four-year-old child, in clashes between troops and residents in Phola Park squatter camp near Johannesburg early Tuesday, witnesses and the African National Congress said.

The South African Defence Force said it knew of only two victims: Gunmen killed after attacking an army patrol.

A Phola Park resident told Reuters the Africans-speaking soldiers, dressed in long jackets and balaclavas, fired volleys of shots at shacks in the camp, killing the sleeping child.

Three other people were killed in separate incidents in the camp between midnight and 2 a.m., residents said.

Defence Force spokesman Major Andreas Jordaan told Reuters an army patrol returned fire after being ambushed by a group of gunmen.

"I cannot comment on reports of four people being killed. What I can confirm is that an army patrol shot and killed two men after the patrol came under fire. Two AK-47 assault rifles were recovered," said Maj. Jordaan.

He said no soldiers were wounded in the gunbattle.

ANC Phola Park executive member Doctor Nkanyana told reporters police were responsible for the killing but police spokesman Captain Wilkes Weber denied his men had been involved in any operations in Phola Park during the night.

More than 900 people have been killed in political violence sweeping South Africa since multi-party negotiators last month set April 27 as the date for the first all-race elections.

Nearly half of the victims died in Johannesburg's satellite townships.

In a separate development, South African President F.W. de Klerk said South Africa's political leaders must work to uproot violence in the country ahead of its first multi-racial elections.

Mr. De Klerk, who is due to visit Chile, Paraguay and Argentina on a Latin American tour later this week, spoke at a joint news conference with Uruguayan President Luis Lacalle in Montevideo.

"There are no simple solutions for South Africa's situation," said the white-minority government leader, who has been criticised by the African National Congress for travelling abroad in South Africa's name.

Cambodia's Royalist Party calls for restoration of monarchy

PHNOM PENH (Agencies) — The Royalist FUNCINPEC Party released a statement Tuesday rejecting the country's new constitution and calling for the restoration of the Cambodian monarchy.

The statement means a possible deadlock in the Constituent Assembly when it meets to ratify the document on Sept. 10, because FUNCINPEC controls 58 seats of the 120 in the assembly and a two-thirds majority—or 80 seats—is needed to ratify it.

"History has shown that Cambodia's political stability depends upon Buddhist tenants and the king. The king is the basis of stability," the statement said.

The daily Rasmey Kampuchea (Light of Cambodia) reported that two drafts of the constitution will be presented to the assembly, one drafted by FUNCINPEC and based on Cambodia's 1947 constitution and the other drafted by a committee made up of members from FUNCINPEC and the formerly communist Cambodian People's Party (CPP).

Unless changes are made to the draft, however, it has no chance of being ratified.

The constitution drafted by the committee and finished on Aug. 17 is still being fine tuned, the report said. But it has been criticised by the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) for being vague and lacking specific references to the rights of ethnic minorities, especially ethnic Vietnamese Cambodians.

The draft outlines a parliamentary system where the head of state—sure to be Prince Norodom Sihanouk—is elected first by the assembly for a five-year term renewable by general election.

It says the head of state has the power to appoint the prime minister, who is most likely to be his son Prince Norodom Ranariddh, currently head of FUNCINPEC and a co-premier sharing power with Mr. Hun Sen.

But in the FUNCINPEC statement, Prince Ranariddh said that "constituent members of the FUNCINPEC Party decided together to ask for the adoption of a constitutional monarchy."

"Cambodia needs to have a head of state who does not have his own political party, meaning a king. The king is the cement who can connect all the broken parts and build a bridge to connect one party with another party," it said.

The Rasmey Kampuchea quoted Chem Snguon, one of the senior members of the drafting committee from the CPP, as saying the two versions would be put before the assembly for the decision, but that neither was sufficient.

"I am afraid our draft constitution is insufficient," the report quoted Mr. Chem Snguon as saying. "Neither constitution is good or bad, but if they (the assembly) decide to use the old one, it would not be good either because we have to change some parts to improve it."

Prince Ranariddh is due to travel to Pyongyang at the end of the month to present a draft of the constitution to his father before the assembly meets to ratify it on Sept. 10.

It is now unclear which one he will present, or if he will bring both.

Meanwhile, Prince Ranariddh and Mr. Hun Sen, held talks Tuesday with Vietnamese President Le Due Anh on the second day of an official visit to Hanoi.

Details of the 45-minute meeting with Mr. Anh—who commanded the Vietnamese forces which invaded Cambodia in December 1978—were not known.

In talks with Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet Monday, they discussed the main outstanding issues—problems along the border and the future of more than 100,000 ethnic Vietnamese long-term residents of Cambodia.

In brief comments after the talks, Mr. Kiet said they had agreed the wish of ethnic Vietnamese to live in Cambodia should be respected. A communiqué is expected Wednesday.

Hanoi is angry over repeated attacks by Khmer Rouge guerrillas against the Vietnamese, over 100 of whom have been killed in the past year.

Some 30,000 fled Cambodia before the elections, and some are waiting on the border for Phnom Penh's permission to return.



Philippine movie actress and candidate for Miss World pageant Ruffa Gutierrez fights her tears during a Senate inquiry on 'Brunel beauties' (AEP photo)

Philippine Miss World bet denies prostitution

MANILA (AP) — The Philippine entry in the Miss World pageant wept "I am not a prostitute" at a Senate hearing Tuesday into charges that some of the country's best-known entertainers go to Brunei as call girls.

Ruffa Gutierrez, 19, said the allegation may jeopardise her chances of winning the Miss World title.

Sen. Ernesto Maceda, citing newspaper reports, asked the Senate to investigate rumours that Filipino women actresses, models and singers visit the oil-rich South East Asian sultanate for prostitution under the guise of entertainment.

While acknowledging he had no proof, Sen. Maceda named Miss Gutierrez, an actress, and several other prominent Filipino entertainers — dubbed the "Brunel beauties" by the Manila media.

"As a youth, I am shocked that a member of the Senate could so recklessly implicate me in a baseless, malicious accusation based upon gossip, verbal or printed, that has caused me and my family deep anxiety and sleepless nights," Miss Gutierrez said on the opening day of the hearings.

She denied having ever visited Brunei and insisted "I am not a prostitute." She demanded a public apology.

Sen. Maceda said his staff was still verifying reports from Brunei and would apologise later if no evidence of the alleged prostitution could be found.

"It seems that by filing this resolution, I am on trial here as much as everyone else," said Sen. Maceda. He said the issue deserved Senate attention because the rumours defamed the country's reputation.

Danes raise German U-boat

COPENHAGEN (R) — A German U-boat sunk in the dying days of World War II broke the surface for the first time in 48 years early Monday after a successful all-night salvage operation in Danish waters. A Danish-Dutch consortium brought the U-534, rumoured to be carrying Nazi treasures or secrets, to the surface at 0845 GMT 20 kilometres north of the Danish island of Anholt. "The U-534 is in fantastic shape," Jonathan Wardlow, spokesman for the salvors, told Reuters. "Much better than we ever could have expected." "We have now got all the U-boat's hatches open and are using bilge pumps to get the water out of the vessels," he said. "Water rushes into the vessel almost as quickly as we can pump it out which could mean that we are near the place where the British depth charge hit and holed the submarine in the 1945 attack."

Eyeful of prizes for lucky tower visitor

PARIS (AFP) — The most visited French monument, the Eiffel Tower, is going to welcome its 150 millionth visitor in a few days, and he or she will get an eyeful of presents, including a car, the tower operator said Monday. The happy winner is expected some time between Aug. 28 and Sept. 2, depending on how the crowds run, said the new company for operation of the Eiffel Tower. The symbol of Paris welcomed its 25 millionth visitor in 1953, and the 100 millionth in 1983. The tower now pulls in about six million visitors a year, with a daily average of 5,000 to 8,000 in poor weather to as many as 30,000 on a nice summer day.

'Majorism' gets a mention in new Oxford dictionary

LONDON (AFP) — The term "majorism" has earned itself a place in the fourth edition of the prestigious smaller Oxford Dictionary — less than three years after its namesake came to power. The two-volume dictionary, due out next month, defines Majorism as "the political and economic policies of the British Conservative politician John Major who became prime minister in 1990." Mr. Major has the British press to thank for gaining the same access to posterity as his predecessor Margaret Thatcher who also features in the dictionary under "Thatcherism," according to Alan Hughes of the Oxford University Press. "We discovered that Majorism was being used in the press, and since established usage is the main criterion for inclusion of words, we put it in." Majorism will be among 4,000 new additions to the dictionary which like the awesome 20 volume larger version is the reference book for millions.

Airline to introduce 'smoking' cabins

PARIS (AFP) — Air France is to introduce separate smoking cabins on flights to Japan and South Korea from Oct. 28, it announced Tuesday. "The cabins in economy class at the back of the aircraft will be separated from non-smoking by galleys and curtains and will have seating for 90. The French national carrier said that it had decided to make the move because around 30 per cent of travellers on the service say they are smokers, against 13 per cent on average for other destinations.

Peace concert draws noise complaints

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — An anti-violence concert billed Music For Peace has drawn complaints about the noise it generated. About 40,000 people crammed into Johannesburg's Wanderers Stadium for the show, which included prayers, gospel singing and speeches by political leaders. African National Congress President Nelson Mandela was among those attending. But city officials said they had received scores of petitions and complaints about the noise. The stadium is in Illovo, a wealthy white neighbourhood north of downtown Johannesburg. The show was aimed at rallying efforts to bring peace to South Africa, where thousands of people have died in political violence in recent years.

Donkeys in drug bust

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Police made a drug bust when they searched 11 donkeys and found them to be carrying bags of marijuana, officials said. The donkeys were being herded across the Lesotho-South African border when police discovered they were concealing 460 kilograms (1,012 pounds) of the drug. Two men were arrested and had to walk for a day with their captors before they could set out of the mountains.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Policeman hurt, bank bombed in Belfast

BELFAST (R) — Irish Republican gunmen Tuesday shot and wounded a policeman on checkpoint duty outside a West Belfast Police Station, police said. The Irish National Liberation Army, a small splinter group fighting just Britain from Northern Ireland, admitted responsibility for the shooting in a statement to the media. The policeman, who was shot in the leg by gunmen speeding by in a hijacked car, was reported "comfortable" in hospital. The Irish Republican Army (IRA), the main guerrilla group fighting Britain in the province, extensively damaged a Belfast bank in a bomb attack early Tuesday. Police described the IRA's eight-minute warning to security forces to clear the area as "woefully inadequate."

Defector cites unrest in N. Korea

SEOUL (AP) — A North Korean defector, describing growing unrest in the hardline communist state, said Tuesday 10 generals have been executed for a coup attempt, food shortages have worsened and a new dissident movement has been crushed. The defector, Im Young-Sun, 30, also said military colleagues reported hundreds of people killed in an accident while trying to hide a nuclear reactor from international inspectors. Underground nuclear tests were being conducted under a thick layer of lead at the communist state's nuclear complex at Yongbyon, 98 kilometres north of Pyongyang, Lt. Im said. None of Lt. Im's reports could be confirmed. North Korea is among the world's most closed and isolated nations and information is tightly controlled. Im, who identified himself as a first lieutenant in the North Korean army, told a news conference the 10 generals were executed at the end of 1992 for plotting to overthrow Kim Il Sung and his son and heir apparent as North Korean leader, Kim Jong Il.

Brazil restricts access to Indian reserve

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — The government has restricted access to the site where gold miners massed red 73 Yanomami Indians, barring foreign journalists and American and Canadian diplomats from the Amazon reservation. The government has been criticised worldwide for failing to protect the Stone Age tribe from miners, who have been prospecting in Yanomami territory illegally since 1987 despite government efforts to oust them. Diane Page, a human rights observer sent by U.S. embassy in Brasilia, and Canadian diplomat Alan Lattulippe were told to return after their plane touched down Monday at the remote Surucucu Air Force Base in the Yanomami reservation. The diplomats, which had received authorisation to visit the area from the government's National Indian Foundation, were ordered to return by federal police on grounds they had not received proper Foreign Ministry approval.

CIS agrees on air defences

MOSCOW (R) — Commonwealth states Tuesday signed an agreement that might salvage the remains of a once-universal air defence system thrown into disarray by the collapse of the Soviet Union, ITAR-TASS News Agency reported. Defence ministers from Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) signed the deal outlining key areas of military cooperation and establishing joint anti-aircraft defence systems and early warning systems against missile attack. The former Soviet Air Defence umbrella depended on a system of monitoring stations throughout the 15 republics and a central control in Moscow. With the collapse of the union, Moscow lost effective control of stations in the three Baltic states and Transcaucasia. The agency of installations in Central Asia has also been criticised by officials. The long failure of Commonwealth states to agree in practice on a joint air defence was symptomatic of the weakness of its military cooperation. The Commonwealth states, unable to agree on central issues of defence, recently abolished the Commonwealth Joint Command.

Ukrainians mark Independence Day

KIEV (R) — Ukraine marked the second anniversary of independence Tuesday with street festivals, but the country's citizens were increasingly angry at plunging living standards and an unending political crisis. Streets in the capital were decked out in traditional embroidered banners with slogans extolling Ukrainian statehood. Officials hoped that residents would brave steady rain to attend open-air concerts and sporting events. But most Ukrainians appeared at best indifferent to the celebrations marking the August 24, 1991 proclamation of independence from the Soviet Union. "Nothing has changed for the better in the past two years," said Serhiy Obarat, a policeman watching a cross-country race on Kiev's main thoroughfare, Kreshchatik Street. "Securing independence was important. But there is too much corruption in high places. Only a new president and parliament can change things."

Italy probes ex-communist treasurer

MILAN (R) — Italy's ex-Communists, until now relatively unscathed by the country's sweeping corruption scandal, on Tuesday became more deeply embroiled when the party's treasurer came under investigation. Marcello Stefanini was warned he was being investigated over alleged kickbacks paid by a building firm, Italian News Agency (ANSA) said. Stefanini, a senator in the upper house of parliament, is one of the most senior officials in the reform Communist (PDS) to be caught in the scandal over the illegal financing of political parties. More than 20 per cent of Italian members of parliament and four former prime ministers are under investigation in the 18-month-old probe, in which the once-dominant Socialists and Christian Democrats have been hardest hit.

Azeri leader says rebel chief fled; men deserted

BAKU (Agencies) — Azeri leader Heydar Aliyev, signalling the apparent end of a separatist rebellion in the south of his country, said Tuesday that the rebel chief had fled and his men were deserting.

In a television broadcast, Mr. Aliyev said three people had been killed and five wounded Monday when the rebels opened fire on demonstrators in the southern port of Lenkeran.

Rebel ex-army officer Aliakram Gummatov, whose men seized control of seven districts bordering Iran in June, had fled into the woods around Lenkeran, Mr. Aliyev said.

Troops who had been supporting Col. Gummatov had deserted and declared their allegiance to the Baku government, he said.

"Many of Gummatov's soldiers laid down their weapons and refused to obey him," Mr. Aliyev said. "But there are still some people who are still under his command. These people are participants in his crimes."

There was no immediate comment from the rebel side.

The rebels had set up frontier posts between the self-proclaimed "Talysh-Mugansk Republic" and the rest of Azerbaijan.

The violence broke out when several thousand people gathered in Lenkeran to protest against Col. Gummatov's plans. Rebel troops opened fire to disperse the crowd and Interfax News Agency said some demonstrators fired back.

The crowd then seized the rebel headquarters, in the Lenkeran local administrative centre, and Col. Gummatov disappeared.

Mr. Aliyev, a former Azeri Communist Party leader who was appointed acting president after an army revolt in June, described the three dead men as "national heroes."

He accused Ayaz Matalibov, another former Azeri Communist Party chief, and ex-Defence Minister Rahim Gaziye, of being behind the rebellion.

He also criticised Prime Minister Suret Huseinov, who led the June army revolt, suggesting that he too had been sympathetic to Col. Gummatov.

There was no immediate reaction to the allegations.

Meanwhile Azerbaijani troops have fled from the key city of Jebail, south of Nagorno-Karabakh, after several days' siege by Armenian forces, correspondents on the scene reported Tuesday.

A T-72 tank and several artillery guns, including a Grad multiple rocket launcher, fired on Armenian positions for two hours late Monday to cover the withdrawal of the last Azerbaijani soldiers from the television station in the southwest of the city.

The Armenian forces took over the Azeri positions around Jebail, but respected their commander's orders not to enter the city.

Angolan troops advance; Mandela announces peace bid

LISBON (AP) — Angolan government forces Tuesday claimed military advances in a southern province, further pinning key UNITA rebel positions in the central highlands.

As fighting raged, three African leaders appealed to Angola's warring parties to attend a fresh round of peace talks in Morocco.

African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela announced in Johannesburg that he, Morocco's King Hassan II and President Felix Houphouet-Boigny of Ivory Coast had written letters to Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos and UNITA chief Jonas Savimbi urging them to attend the talks.

Mr. Mandela did not say when the proposed talks were scheduled.

The United Nations have set a Sept. 15 deadline for Angolan peace talks to resume.

But there has been no sign of a let up in fighting three weeks into a major government offensive focussed on UNITA's central stronghold of Huambo, which the rebels seized after a brutal siege in March.

Angolan state radio claimed that government forces had taken the town of Hoque and were closing in on Cacula, both in Huila province.

CIA pinned JFK conspiracy theories on KGB

WASHINGTON (R) — The CIA, worried about conspiracy theories linking it to the assassination of John F. Kennedy, tried more than three years after the event to blame "Communist propagandists" as a key source of the allegations.

Almost one million pages of official documents made public Monday also faulted the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency for "confusing and sometimes contradictory" reporting on the murder but found "no solid evidence" of sinister behaviour.

They showed the CIA closely watched assassin Lee Harvey Oswald and apparently photographed him during a mysterious visit to Mexico City less than a month before Kennedy's death in November, 1963, although the agency denied having pictures.

In an intriguing disclosure, the House of Representatives Select Committee on Assassinations reported Oswald had a sexual relationship with a Mexican secretary at the Cuban consulate whom the CIA had apparently targeted for recruitment.

The reported sexual liaison added a new dimension to Oswald's shadowy visit to Mexico City in September and October 1963, a trip which has caused controversy among researchers.

"It certainly complicates the picture and raises a new level of uncertainty as to what was really going on in the crucial episodes in Mexico City," James Lesar, a lawyer heading the non-profit Assassination Archives and Research Centre, said.

"It suggests the possibility of collusion between the two of them and possibly others," he added in an interview.

The woman, whom Reuters has decided not to name for reasons of privacy, called the Soviet consulate in Mexico City twice to discuss a request by Oswald for a Soviet visa.

In the past 30 years, Oswald's contacts in Mexico City have been variously construed by researchers to suggest he worked for the CIA, the Soviet KGB, Cuba or the mafia.

The previously secret House report, titled "Oswald, The CIA And Mexico City," cited CIA officials' testimony that the woman had been identified for recruitment by the CIA, but said it had been unable to "definitely resolve" whether she in fact had been a Mexican or U.S. intelligence agent or source.

In a telephone interview from Mexico City Monday, the woman denied having had an intimate relationship with Oswald or having had a link to any intelligence agency. "I was working at the (Cuban) embassy and that's all," she told Reuters.

Researchers will take months to digest the new information, made public under a government-wide disclosure law enacted last year to counter conspiracy claims.

Steven Tilley, the National Archives liaison person for JFK material, estimated up to one million pages being unveiled, much of it previously secret. Included were 125,000 pages of CIA documents, plus records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the State Department, the Secret Service, Office of Management and Budget, presidential libraries and congressional panels.

In an April 1, 1967, directive to "chiefs, certain stations and bases," CIA Headquarters said the conspiracy theories abounded after the 1964 Warren Commission

report, calling them "a matter of concern to the U.S. government, including our organisation."

The commission, headed by the late Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren, found Oswald acted alone when he killed Kennedy during a motorcade through Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

"Conspiracy theories have frequently thrown suspicion on our organisation, for example by, falsely alleging that Lee Harvey Oswald worked for us," said the CIA cable, first made public through a CIA historical review programme last year and released under the new law's guidelines.

Oswald, a Marine Corps radar technician familiar with U-2 spy flights, defected to the Soviet Union in 1959 and redefected to the United States in 1962.

"The aim of this dispatch is to provide material for discrediting the claims of the conspiracy theorists, so as to inhibit the circulation of such claims in other countries," the cable said, adding "Point out also that parts of the conspiracy talks appear to be deliberately generated by Communist propagandists."

Sydney sees Beijing as main Olympics rival

SYDNEY (R) — There is no escaping Sydney's Olympic dream, whether you take a ferry around the harbour, a taxi to the opera or a bus to Bondi Beach. Multi-coloured streamers flutter everywhere, urging locals and tourists alike to "share the spirit."

Sydney, following two recent unsuccessful Australian bids, wants the 2000 Olympics with a vengeance.

"Sydney is the athletes' choice," said Bob Elphinstone, general manager of the bid, in typically blunt Australian terms.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) will hand down its decision in Monte Carlo September 23.

One local bookmaker, in a profession not renowned for putting sentiment before sense, has Sydney odds on favourite at 8-11, with Beijing at 11-8 and Manchester at 11-8.

In many respects, Sydney seems to have it made.

The city of 3.5 million people has 140 ethnic groups — pretty much guaranteeing support for most members of the Olympic family — a sports-mad population, near-perfect climate, fine facilities and strong political backing.

The IOC's enquiry commission technical report released last month virtually said as much.

"If you like at the 23 things that matter on the technical side, the Sydney bid is bloody near perfect," one IOC official told Reuters in London last month. It's so far ahead of the others, it's quite breathtaking.

The IOC's decision ends 2½

years of lobbying by six cities — although reading the local press gives the impression that only Sydney and Beijing are in the frame.

Little is heard about Berlin and Manchester, almost nothing about Osaka and Istanbul. Brasilia withdrew its bid earlier this month.

If Sydney wins it will be the second time the games have been held in the southern hemisphere. The Australian city of Melbourne hosted the 1956 games.

The Australian government views the games as a means to boost the country's building and tourist industry.

In concrete terms, Sydney already has about 65 per cent of Olympic venues completed or under construction.

The plan has 14 of the 25 summer Olympic sports within walking distance to the Olympic village at Homebush, 14 km (nine miles) west of the city.

The village would house all 10,000 athletes in one place for the first time in Olympic history. The bid has even enlisted scientists to develop a hi-tech swimming pool which should guarantee world records.

The environment has also been integral to the bid and the campaigning group Greenpeace helped design the village, which will use solar panels and recycle water.

The Olympic flags have already been put up, fluttering alongside the road, from atop the Sydney harbour bridge, from warehouses, offices, and hotels.

The decision remains to be made.

Laith Al Azzouni wins Jordan Tennis Championship

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan's tennis scene, long dominated by No. 1 ranked Hani Al Ali and 2nd-ranked Imad Abu Hamda, may soon have a new champion — 16-year-old Laith Al Azzouni.

During the 1993 Jordan Tennis Championship which ended Monday at the Jordan Tennis Federation (JTF) courts, Azzouni caused the biggest upset of the championship when he disposed of Abu Hamda 6-2, 6-2 in the semifinals. He then went on to win the championship after defeating his elder brother, Fares, 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 in the final.

Fares Azzouni had overcome Ayman Abu Jaber 6-1, 6-2 in the other semifinal.

"Laith had nothing to lose. He didn't feel the pressure. Imad must have felt it," a JTF official Tuesday told the Jordan Times. "Laith has come a long way, and will continue to



Laith Al Azzouni

improve," he added.

He also pointed out that there were many bad calls by the referees during the matches.

"We have to improve this aspect of the game," he said. 64 competitors took part in the championship, the Kingdom's underholder for the past decade, Al Ali, did not participate.



PALESTINE HANDBALL CUP: Jordan faces Palestine in Palestine Handball Cup championship inaugurated Tuesday by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein at Hussein Youth City. Taking part in the championship are teams from Palestine, Tunisia, Syria and Jordan

Bruguera, Ivanisevic win

COMMACK, N.Y. (AP) — Sergi Bruguera, the French Open champion playing his first hard-court match of the summer, routed Alex O'Brien 6-2 6-3 Monday in the first round of the \$300,000 Hamlet Cup.

Bruguera, the third seed from Spain, advanced to the second round of this U.S. Open tuneup along with No. 7 Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia, No. 8 Alexander Volkov of Russia and Carl Uwe Steeb of Germany.

Ivanisevic, playing in the featured night match, overcame 17 aces by Marc Goellner of Germany to win 7-6 (9-7), 6-3. Goellner, who also had seven double faults, held a set point in the tiebreaker at 7-6. Ivanisevic crashed it with a passing shot to start a surge that put him ahead 3-0 in the second set.

"It was my best match in a long time and I feel good about it," Ivanisevic said.

In another night match, Patrick McEnroe was ahead 6-1 when Alex Corretja of Spain retired with what is believed to be a torn thigh muscle.

Bruguera has won four titles on clay this year, including the French, and has a 41-9 record on the surface. He had little trouble with O'Brien, the 1992 NCAA champion from Stanford who is ranked 103rd in the world.

Bruguera shrugged off questions why he waited until the week before the U.S. Open to prepare on hardcourts.

Bruguera's last hardcourt tournament was Indian Wells, Calif., in early March. He lost in the first round to Brad Gilbert. Volkov, playing his sixth straight week on hardcourts, eliminated qualifier Robbie Weiss 6-4, 6-4.

Steeb beat fellow German David Prinosil 6-4, 7-5. He took a 4-0 lead in the first set but had to

retire from a 3-5, 0-40 deficit in the second set.

"I was lucky," said Steeb, who had been sidelined several weeks with a knee injury. "He made five unforced errors when he had me down. But I felt good because it was the first day I've played without pain."

Trainers advances in OTB Tennis: In Schenectady, New York seventh-seed Mikael Pernfors of Sweden survived a scare to beat Stephane Simonian of France 3-6 7-6 (7-4) 7-5 in the first round of the \$350,000 OTB International Open tennis tournament Monday.

Pernfors lost the first set 3-6 and went down an early break in the second, but rallied to win that set in a tiebreak 7-4.

Top 20 women's tennis players, according to rankings issued by the Women's Tennis Association Monday:

1. Steffi Graf (Germany)
2. Monica Seles (Yugoslavia)
3. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain)
4. Martina Navratilova (U.S.)
5. Conchita Martinez (Spain)
6. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina)
7. Mary Joe Fernandez (U.S.)
8. Jennifer Capriati (U.S.)
9. Jana Novotna (Czech Republic)
10. Anke Huber (Germany)
11. Magdalena Maleeva (Bulgaria)
12. Manonella Maleeva-Fragniere (Switzerland)
13. Helena Sukova (Czech Republic)
14. Mary Pierce (France)
15. Nathalie Tauziat (France)
16. Amanda Coetzer (South Africa)
17. Zina Garrison-Jackson (U.S.)
18. Sabine Hack (Germany)
19. Kimiko Date (Japan)
20. Katerina Maleeva (Bulgaria)

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U.S. is No.1 track power; China new No.2

STUTTGART (Agencies) — The United States is back as the world's dominant track and field power.

With the breakup of the Soviet Union and the consolidation of the Germans into one team, the Americans have regained the position they held before those nations emerged strongly into the sport.

The Americans did it with an overpowering performance at the World Championships that ended Sunday.

For the first time, the Americans finished atop the medal standings, collecting 26 medals, half of them gold.

At the 1991-Tokyo Championships, the U.S. team also earned 26 medals, 10 golds, but finished second in total medals to the Soviet Union's 28. This time, the Russian team got only 16 medals, including three golds, all by women.

Germany, the medals leader at the first two championships in 1983 and 1987 with 30 and 34 medals, respectively — the totals being a combination of the West German and East German teams — wound up with 17 medals in 1991 and only 8 this time.

The biggest improvement for the United States team was among the women. After garnering a total of only six golds in the previous three championships, they won five in the meet — Gail Devers with a rare double in the 100-metre dash and the 100-metre hurdles, Pearl Miles in the 400, Jackie Joyner-Kersey in the heptathlon and the 1,600-metre relay team of Gwen Torrence, Maicel Malone, Natasha Kaiser-Brown and Miles.

"I think it is a flavour of things to come for the women, because there are a lot of young women out there," U.S. women's coach Ernie Gregoire said. "Most of our medalists are in their mid-to-late 20s and there's some good legs left under them."

The U.S. men's team also appears to have a solid future. "We have some great, young talent coming up," said Michael Johnson, the world 400-metre champion.

While the United States was re-emerging as the No. 1 track power, China was emerging as an important force. The Chinese, winner of only seven medals — two golds — in the previous three championships, went home with eight medals, four golds, all of them by women. It was their best performance in a major competition.

Their gold medal total put the Chinese in second place, one ahead of such formidable track



China's Junxia Wang and Huardi Zhong do an honour round with their national flag after winning gold and silver respectively in the women's 10,000 metre event (AFP photo)

nations as Russia, Britain and Kenya.

The Chinese have a rapidly developing programme, with emphasis on the women, because they feel that women's records are soft and can be broken easily.

The Chinese were ostracised in the international sports community until making their international debut at the 1983 World Championships at Helsinki.

Now, they have track officials crisscrossing the nation in search of talent.

The coaches select them and put them in systematic training, team leader Chang Xutang said.



The U.S. women's 4x400m relay team acknowledge applause after they won the gold medal (AFP photo)

However, the Chinese success, provided by some little-known runners, has triggered questions about the use of performance-enhancing drugs among their athletes.

"I am convinced that this has not been achieved in legal ways," Olympic 5,000-metre champion Dieter Baumann of Germany said of China's unexpected performances at the championships, including a sweep of the three longest women's races, the 1,500, 3,000 and 10,000 metres.

Three athletes tested positive for drugs at the championships, none of them Chinese, but results of the late events will not be known until later this week. They were men's javelin bronze medalist Dmitry Polyunin of Uzbekistan; 1992 Olympic discus champion Romas Ubartas of Lithuania, fourth at the championships, and Lilia Nurutdinova of Russia, seventh in the women's 800.

Four world records were broken during the nine-day meet at Gottlieb-Daimler Stadium. Britain's Colin Jackson in the men's 110-metre hurdles, 12.91 seconds; the U.S. 1,600-metre relay team of Andrew Valmon, Quincy Watts, Butch Reynolds and Johnson, 3:54.29; Britain's Sally Gunnell in the women's 400 hurdles, 52.74, and Russia's Irina Biryukova in the women's triple jump, 49 feet, 6 1/4 inches (15.09 metres).

The U.S. 400-metre relay team of Jon Drummond, Andre Cason, Dennis Mitchell and Leroy Burrell equaled the world record of 37.40.

Another record was set for attendance, with a total of 584,450.

The next World Championships will be at Göteborg, Sweden, in 1995.

Gunnell and Jackson show Russian goodwill

Great Britain's new record-breaking world champions Sally Gunnell and Colin Jackson have agreed to take part in the Goodwill Games in St. Petersburg, Russia, next year.

The event, hosted at the newly-renovated Petrovsky Stadium, takes place between July 23-August 7.

Around 2,000 athletes from more than 50 countries are expected to take part in the event, first hosted in 1986.

Gunnell ran a new world mark of 52.74sec to take the women's 400m title at Stuttgart last week, while Welshman Jackson's world best time of 12.91 won him the men's 100m title.

Brazil devoid of flair, say critics

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazil's World Cup qualifying win over Ecuador kept trainer Carlos Alberto Parreira happy but was an immense disappointment to those who admire Brazil's traditional flair and panache.

There were no clever flicks, quick one-twos or swerving free kicks which have delighted World Cup audiences in the past.

Instead, Brazil's play turned into a dull routine of square passes and high crosses into the Ecuador penalty area. It became so predictable that their performance was described as "mechanical" by one newspaper.

Brazil won 2-0 to take an important step towards the World Cup finals in the United States. Bolivia, who beat Venezuela 7-0 Sunday lead the Group B standings with ten points from five matches, followed by Brazil, who have six points from five matches, and Ecuador, four from five.

Uruguay have four points from four games, while Venezuela have lost all five of their games.

But the 77,000 crowd at the Morumbi Stadium were not satisfied and jeered Brazil in the second half, shouting "get out Parreira" and chanting the name of former national team coach Tele Santana.

The only inspiration came from striker Bebeto, who scored the first goal and set up the second for Duogo with two moments of brilliance. Otherwise, Brazil may have struggled to break down the massed ranks of the Ecuador defence.

Parreira, who has been severe-

ly criticised for his unadventurous team selections, again made himself unpopular by picking three defensive midfield players in Dunga, Zinho and Mauro Silva.

With captain Rai again out of sorts, Bebeto and fellow striker Muller often had to come back to do the midfield's creative work for them.

Parreira bewildered fans and commentators by leaving

Palhinha and Cafu, two of Brazil's most skilful midfielders, on the substitute's bench until the closing minutes.

Their names were chanted by the Sao Paulo crowd throughout the match.

Parreira remained defiant and said he was not worried about the jeering.

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North-South vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ K Q 7 5
♥ Q 3
♦ Q 5 4 3
♣ A 10 6

WEST
♠ 10 8 2
♥ A 7 5 2
♦ A
♣ 9 7 6 4

EAST
♠ J 6 3
♥ K J 8
♦ K J 9
♣ K Q J 2

SOUTH
♠ A 9 4
♥ 9 8 4
♦ 10 8 7 2
♣ 8 3

The bidding:
West North South
2♥ Pass Pass 3♥
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Seven of ♠

There is an old bridge axiom: "Cover an honor with an honor," to which can almost surely be added, "especially if the queen is led and you hold the K J." But every hand must be treated on its own merits, as this deal from the 9th World Bridge Olympiad demonstrates.

Sitting East-West, respectively, for the U.S. were Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell, playing against

Alain Levy and Hervé Mouiel of France, North-South. At this vulnerability, the U.S. pair use very undisciplined weak two-bids, which accounts for both West's opening bid and East's failure to raise with what was likely to be the best hand in the table. Since the diamond holding was over the doubler, East felt his hand was better suited for defense.

West led the seven of clubs, taken with the ace. The contract was surely going down — barring a defensive collapse, declarer must lose two hearts, a club and at least two trumps. Mouiel tried to limit the damage by making the fine play of the queen of trumps from dummy at trick two.

We know many defenders who would cover with the king reflexively. Great would have been the fall thereon, and declarer would later lead toward the ten to escape with two trump losers and a one-trick set.

However, Meckstroth worked out that there was no way that covering with the king could possibly gain. If declarer held the ace-ten of trumps, the defenders would be limited to one trump trick either way. So East ducked, and declarer had to concede three trump tricks — down two.

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		Last Action Hero	
		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	
Cinema	Tel.: 699238	PLAZA	
		Wad Sayyed Al Shaghal	
		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30	
Cinema	Tel.: 634144	PHILADELPHIA	
		Franky and Jany	
		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	
Tel.: 675571	Nabli Al Mashini Theatre	Coming soon: Fuad Shomaly Abu Fayek In the popular comedy: Al Ilmu Nuron	
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PLO asks its diplomats to quit, fires local staff

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has sacked local staff at its diplomatic missions and asked its representatives to take voluntary redundancy because of the organisation's financial crisis.

Several Palestinian officials feared the cuts were a prelude to liquidating the 29-year-old PLO, which has around 15,000 members.

The PLO's political department chief, Farouq Kaddoumi, has sent a circular to the organisation's offices around the world ordering them to fire locally hired employees and asking for voluntary redundancies.

"We have waited for more than three months to get our salary. But what we got is a circular from the PLO leadership telling us that anyone can resign if he wishes," said a Gulf-based PLO official.

"It is aimed at liquidating the organisation and amount to a final blow to the institutions so they will be handed over to Israel with no spirit," he charged, declining to be named.

"But we will not resign because we are struggling not employees. We joined the PLO to fight for our land not under any business contract."

The official read the brief circular to AFP by telephone, saying PLO offices in the Gulf had been in touch over the circular and all their members were refusing to resign.

The Tunis-based PLO has 100 missions around the world, 75 of which are recognised as fully-fledged embassies.

The organisation is suffering its worst crisis due to political and financial woes, notably because of a cut in aid from the oil-rich Gulf because of the organisation's sympathy for Iraq after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Some PLO officials have

blamed its leader Yasser Arafat for the crisis and called for his resignation, including the military chief in Lebanon of the organisation's mainstream Fatah group, Munir Maqadha.

Once the wealthiest guerrilla group in the world, the PLO has now been forced to sell part of its assets.

"The most serious thing in this crisis is that the PLO leadership has abandoned the families of martyrs. They have not received a penny for more than five months," another Gulf-based PLO official complained.

"This is the worst crisis in the PLO's history because it is internal while previous crises were mainly caused by external factors," one official said.

"We believe that those who are responsible for the crisis and all previous mistakes must resign not us. By asking us to resign, the PLO is abandoning its members after several years of serving our national causes."

One official said he had been in the PLO for 25 years and would look for another job but would not submit his resignation.

"You can resign from a bank or a company but not from a struggle for freedom and identity. I have contacted the PLO headquarters and all they had to say is that I can go to Lebanon, Syria or Jordan and report to PLO offices there."

According to the circular, PLO representatives who resign would receive one-third of their severance pay now and the rest in monthly installments.

The organisation has closed several institutions in the Israeli-occupied territories and abroad because of the crisis and slashed its aid to the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip by two-thirds.

Croats hold up U.N. emergency Mostar food

MOSTAR, Bosnia (Agencies) — A U.N. aid convoy set out Tuesday with food and medicine for 55,000 Muslims trapped in Mostar but Bosnian Croat forces held it up because of a dispute over the return of the bodies of Croat soldiers.

The 19-truck convoy stalled in Medjugorje, a small southern Bosnian town close to Mostar, after negotiations between Jadranko Prlic, a senior political official in the Bosnian Croat leadership, and U.N. officials broke down.

In Mostar, Muslim fighters said the Croat defence force (HVO), which authorised the convoy, had unleashed a mortar, machinegun and artillery barrage on the Muslim-held eastern sector of the town.

The onslaught began shortly before 6 a.m. (0400 GMT) and continued into the afternoon.

It killed at least two civilians, wounded five soldiers and wrecked the pharmacy at a makeshift hospital where victims of the Croat blockade are being treated.

Three mortar hits on the pharmacy destroyed desperately needed medical supplies delivered by a token U.N. convoy which the Croats allowed to cross their lines at the weekend.

Journalists huddling near the front line from the warring communities reported heavy gunfire in all directions.

Ambulances and cars sped towards the hospital.

Alema Lisinski, spokeswoman for the U.N. High Com-

missioner for Refugees (UNHCR), told reporters in Zagreb the convoy entered Bosnia from Croatia shortly after midday (1000 GMT).

It had planned to reach Mostar in mid-afternoon.

Nineteen trucks authorised by the HVO were carrying enough food to last the Muslim population for a week.

The civilians in the Muslim quarter have not received U.N. food since June 2 and aid officials fear people will start dying of starvation soon.

U.N. peacekeepers who reached the area Saturday said hospital conditions were desperate.

Some operations were being performed without anaesthesia, more than 40 per cent of the residents were refugees and 60 per cent of the buildings were uninhabitable, they said.

Croats and Muslims each made up some 42 per cent of Mostar's pre-war population 130,000, and lived in peace. They united earlier this year to oppose Bosnian Serbs, but their alliance disintegrated as plans for an ethnic division of Bosnia emerged.

Bosnia's Croats want Mostar to be the capital of a Croat-dominated republic. Fighting between the city's Muslim and Croat communities broke out in May.

Despite a Bosnian ceasefire signed Aug 11 and last week's peace talks in Geneva, sporadic fighting was reported across Bosnia on Monday.

Montazeri in hospital

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, barred from politics by the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini who dismissed him as his designated successor, has been admitted to a Tehran hospital suffering from kidney stones, his son said Tuesday.

Saeed Montazeri said intelligence officials prevented the 71-year-old cleric's admission to a public hospital in Tehran last week when he went there with a heart ailment.

"He is generally fine but has kidney stones. Doctors have prescribed medication for now and have not yet decided on the main treatment," he told Reuters by telephone from Khatam-ul-Anbia hospital.

He said Ayatollah Montazeri was admitted to the hospital, which is run by the Martyr Foundation, on Sunday.

Ayatollah Montazeri has been banished from official Iranian politics since Ayatollah Khomeini dismissed him as his designated heir three months before he died in 1989. He continued teaching theology in the Holy Shiite Muslim city of Qom south of Tehran.

He has occasionally come into conflict with Iranian leaders after making critical statements. In February when his office was ransacked and five of his aides were arrested.

Saeed Montazeri said intelligence officials went to Qom on August 16 when doctors there recommended Ayatollah Montazeri stay for checks for 48 hours.

"They told the doctors it was not expedient for him to be in Tehran and he should return to Qom. The doctors resisted to some extent, but ultimately had to give in," he said.

King and Qaboos hold talks

(Continued from page 1)

jali, Royal Court Chief Khalid Al Karaki, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, Private Chamberlain Prince Ali Ben

Nayef and senior civil and military officials in addition to the Omani ambassador to Jordan.

Prince Mohammad was sworn in to serve as the Regent during the King's absence.



DEPARTURE: His Majesty King Hussein with His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of the King, at the airport Tuesday shortly before the King left on a visit to Oman (Petra photo)

Fateh leader urges Arafat to resign

BEIRUT (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, increasingly beleaguered by opponents within the movement Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), faced further strife Tuesday when his militia commander in Lebanon called on him to resign.

Munir Maqadha, who heads the 3,000-strong force, denounced Mr. Arafat's handling of the Middle East peace talks and accused him of begging tens of thousands of Palestinians in a financial crisis that is crippling the PLO.

Mr. Maqadha's broadside fuelled a swelling leadership crisis within the PLO in which Mr. Arafat is facing unprecedented public criticism.

Officials at PLO headquarters in Tunis said the movement's decision-making executive committee will meet Thursday to discuss the crisis following the resignation of senior figures opposed to Mr. Arafat.

By all accounts, the critical session is likely to be heated. A growing number of senior Palestinians are openly challenging Mr. Arafat and demanding sweeping reforms, including greater consultations on how to proceed in the 21-month-old deadlock negotiations with Israel.

Mr. Maqadha, based in the refugee camp of Ain al Hilweh near the southern provincial capital of Sidon, was the first PLO military commander to criticise Mr. Arafat over his peace talks strategy and the movement's worsening financial crisis under his authoritarian leadership.

The crisis has been building for months, with large numbers of Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories demanding Mr. Arafat pull Palestinian negotiators out of the U.S.-sponsored talks until Israel agrees to discuss an independent Palestinian state.

The Jewish state will only discuss limited autonomy inside the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The crisis has accelerated amid reports that Mr. Arafat told the

United States through Egypt that he is prepared to accept self-rule only in Gaza as a first step towards an eventual independent state.

"If Mr. Arafat cannot find a solution except Gaza as a result of American threats and seduction through the Egyptian regime, then he has to resign," Mr. Maqadha said in a statement published by the independent Al Nahar Daily.

The Palestinian negotiators themselves have repeatedly clashed with Mr. Arafat, who insists on continuing the negotiations despite Israel's failure to make concessions.

Mr. Maqadha also accused Mr. Arafat of imposing an "economic blockade" on his own people, a reference to the PLO's financial crisis.

He charged that the crisis has turned the movement's "officers, fighters and martyrs' families into beggars throughout the world."

The PLO was slashed payments to Palestinian refugees and the dependents of slain guerrillas and introduced sweeping austerity measures because of the three-year-old crisis (see separate story).

PLO officials refuse to discuss the movement's financial affairs. Much of the PLO's wealth, estimated at between \$2 to \$5 billion, is reportedly deposited in Swiss banks in Mr. Arafat's name.

Mr. Maqadha joined at least five other top PLO officials in calling for an extraordinary meeting of the Palestine National Council.

The PLO's Lebanon representative, Shafiq Al Hout, an independent member of the Executive Committee, Sunday suspended his membership pending a PNC meeting to discuss Mr. Arafat's "irresponsible and adventurous" policies.

Two days earlier, Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish, another independent figure often termed the "PLO's conscience," resigned from the Executive Committee to protest Mr. Arafat's policies.

Swiss-Turkish dispute bursts into the open

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkey Tuesday asked Switzerland to recall its ambassador in Ankara and two embassy attaches in a week's time.

"We have asked Switzerland to withdraw its ambassador (Andre Ramseyer) and two attaches, Jean-Pierre Baumeier and Hendrich Maurer," a Foreign Ministry communiqué said.

The action was a diplomat tit-for-tat in response to the decision by Swiss authorities Wednesday to lift the diplomatic immunity of Turkish Ambassador in Bern Kaya Toperi, who returned here Friday, observers noted.

The Turkish government "rejects" the lifting of the diplomatic immunity of its ambassador and officials here said Mr. Toperi was here for "consultations."

Swiss authorities lifted the immunity of Mr. Toperi and another Turkish embassy employee in order to question them in connection with a shootout with Kurdish demonstrators outside the Bern embassy that left one dead and nine wounded in July.

Aokara had also recalled four of its Bern embassy staffers in connection with the incident, after refusing to have their diplomatic immunity lifted.

Mr. Toperi has said he ordered embassy staff to fire into the air to prevent the demonstrators, militants of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), from storming the embassy. Witnesses say they fired at the legs of the demonstrators.

On his return to Turkey on Friday, Mr. Toperi accused Switzerland of acting negligently during the protest.

Diplomatic relations between Turkey and Switzerland will continue at charge d'affaires level until Switzerland appoints a new ambassador to Ankara, Anatolia news agency said.

Ankara would then appoint a new envoy to Bern, it said.

Hostages rescued

Turkish soldiers killed eight PKK guerrillas Monday while freeing two Britons and two Afghans kidnapped hours earlier by the rebels, a Turkish official said.

Turkish troops chased the guerrillas on a tip from witnesses of the midnight abduction in the Batman province in southeastern Turkey, said the official.

In London, the Foreign Office confirmed that two Britons were freed after a clash between the rebels and security forces. The Britons were believed to be returning from a visit to Lake Van.

Afghans use the same route after entering Turkey from Iran.

The PKK is still holding seven more tourists — three Swiss, one Italian, two Germans and a New Zealander — abducted this month in the increasingly bloody conflict raging around the wild mountains of Turkey's southeast.

The Swiss foreign ministry has stressed that efforts to recover their nationals would not be hampered by the diplomatic row.

Switzerland, like other western states, have ruled out negotiations with the PKK, which demands that the governments of the kidnapped tourists negotiate directly for their release.

Israel polluting River Jordan, official says

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Israel bears the sole responsibility for the high level of pollution in the Jordan River, an official said Tuesday.

Abdul Aziz Wishah, director of the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), said Israel had been polluting the river by piping sewage and salty water into it.

"Israel pipes domestic and industrial sewage and salty waters into the river. It is fully responsible for polluting it," Dr. Wishah said.

He said the salinity level in the river's water had increased since Israel stopped the flow of sweet water from the Tiberias Lake into the river.

Israel has diverted the water of the Tiberias away from the river to irrigate agricultural land, and the diversion has also substantially lowered the river's water level.

Israel's nature reserves authority said Tuesday that sewage seeping into the River Jordan had pushed bacteria in its waters to 2.5 times the permitted level for swimming.

Agence France Press (AFP) said the pollution was found where the river flows into the Sea

of Galilee and traced upstream to the Hula Valley where sewage was flowing into the river.

The agency quoted an Israeli health ministry official as saying that more tests were needed to find out whether the whole upper stretch of the river was polluted.

Most of the areas on the bank of the river in Jordan are closed to civilians as military zones. Visits to the river are restricted.

Dr. Wishah said little could be done to treat the pollution in the river due to the "political situation and technical difficulties."

Water rights is one of the major issues that Jordan and Israel are discussing in the multi-lateral and bilateral phases of the Middle East peace process, which was launched in Madrid in 1991.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali said in June that Israel had recognised Jordan's demands for returning its rights to the waters of the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers.

"The fundamental achievements of the peace process have so far included an Israeli recognition... (of the need) to return our rights in the waters of the Yarmouk and Jordan rivers," Dr. Majali said.

King Fahd lashes out at 'smear campaign'

RIVADH (AP) — King Fahd has complained of "smear campaigns" following foreign media reports that painted a gloomy picture of Saudi Arabia's economy and said recent political reforms fell short of Western-style democracy.

But, said King Fahd, "malevolent people cannot block the sunlight, and truth will always vanquish falsity, though it may take time."

King Fahd was addressing citizens at his traditional weekly Majlis, or open house. Excerpts were broadcast by state-run television on its midnight newscast Monday.

The New York Times reported Sunday and Monday that a decade of huge military spending and irregular banking practices had depleted Saudi Arabia's \$121 billion of reserves and undermined its financial stability.

Arab diplomatic sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the report displeased the Saudi leadership.

King Fahd currently is being inundated by expressions of support from leading figures, hailing his weekend appointment of a 60-member consultative assembly that will give citizens a formal say in policy for the first time.

The sources said the leadership also was displeased by foreign media reports that pointed out the move falls short of Western-style democracy.

King Fahd has said repeatedly that he believes Western democracy to be an unsuitable model for his kingdom to follow.

In his remarks broadcast Mon-

day, the king denounced "those unjust and provocative smear campaigns that target the kingdom in an attempt to distort the facts and fabricate lies."

The king has implied he will reshuffle his government, a major development in a country that has had an almost stable cabinet for two decades. He also has ruled that ministers' terms will be limited to four years unless they are extended by royal decree.

There was a "comprehensive renaissance in all fields" throughout the kingdom, King Fahd said.

Saudi-based Western businessmen and bankers, along with Saudi economists, said they thought the Times story on the kingdom's financial woes was off base.

"It lacks perspective, and in both absolute and historical terms... it fails to show the current situation in context," said a Western businessman who has been in the kingdom for several years.

He said the oil-rich economy has considerable capacity to carry debt, and was still at the beginning of the road when it came to developing capital markets and rationalisation of industry.

The kingdom of 12 million Saudis and 4.6 million foreigners sits on nearly a third of the world's proven oil reserves. Producing eight million barrels a day, it is the world's largest oil exporter.

The oil price slide that ended the oil boom of the 1970s has put the Saudi budget in the red since 1983, forcing the kingdom to start borrowing on the international market in 1988.

U.S. report questions cost of Arrow programme

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Israel may be underestimating the cost of its Arrow anti-missile system that is being developed with U.S. funds, a congressional report said on Monday.

The report from the General Accounting Office (GAO), the congressional investigating agency, said the United States may be drawn into funding most of the system without the benefit of sound information.

"Due to technical risk and other factors, we believe Israel's estimate for additional funds needed to develop, produce, deploy and support a complete system — including launchers, radars and other related equipment — may be understated," the unclassified report said.

"Moreover, the United States may be drawn into funding most of the complete Israeli system without the benefit of sound cost, schedule and performance information," it said.

The report's conclusions had been made public in July by Democratic Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia who questioned whether the United States should continue funding the project.

The United States is providing most of the money for development of the Arrow, but is not planning to buy any of the missiles for the U.S. Armed Forces.

The report recommended that before additional U.S. funds are committed for the Arrow, the Defence Department develop accurate figures for the full cost of the system and consider U.S. alternatives to the Arrow for meeting Israel's ballistic missile defence needs.

During the 1991 Gulf war, the United States sent Patriot anti-missile units to Israel to defend against Iraq Scud attacks.

Israel never transferred any U.S. technology connected to the

Arrow programme to other countries, the Israeli defence ministry said Tuesday.

The ministry strongly denied the GAO report that the U.S. government is failing to protect its technology from being transferred to third countries.

A statement noted that close cooperation between Israel Aircraft Industries and Pentagon officials precluded any leaks.

The Arrow project began in 1988 and is costing the United States \$461 million — 72 per cent of the costs — but the first three Arrow flight tests were unsuccessful.

The Israeli defence ministry said that estimates were realistic.

"The Israeli estimates as to the cost of full scale engineering development, production and deployment, of an Arrow weapon system, are performed according to the normal Israeli practices and past experience," the statement said.

The ministry also took issue with the GAO's complaint that no missile has been intercepted in tests so far.

"Israel realises that the Arrow programme involves a certain level of risk," it acknowledged, but went on to say: "The Arrow project has been making genuine progress in developing cutting-edge ballistic missile defence technology."

The Arrow has undergone five tests so far. A sixth was cancelled in July following a technical hitch, and was rescheduled for September.

"Israel intends to deploy the Arrow system, as a response to its ballistic missile threat, as soon as possible," the ministry said. "The need to counter the ballistic missile threat, and the Israeli experience in the Gulf war, justifies taking a calculated risk."

COLUMN

Japanese empress scolds reporter for surprise question

TOKYO (AP) — Given a cooperative corps of reporters and plenty of time to prepare answers beforehand, news conferences with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko are usually serene affairs. But on Monday, as the royal couple met the press to discuss their upcoming trip to Europe, a last-minute change in questions left the empress and more than a few palace officials clearly annoyed.

"I would appreciate your allowing us to put our thoughts together (in advance) so that we do not fail to express our feelings fully," Empress Michiko, who graduated from a Catholic Girls School, replied testily when asked how she feels about her forthcoming meeting with Pope John Paul II.

Emperor Akihito had just answered the same question. Gebhart Heilscher of the German newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung decided to ask the question because the one he was supposed to ask about German reunification seemed to overlap the preceding question. Ten reporters from the foreign media were invited to Monday's news conference. Press encounters with Japan's imperial couple, generally held only once or twice a year, are very carefully orchestrated to avoid any hint of confrontation or disharmony. The Palace Reporter's Club, which represents Japan's top newspapers and television networks, screens out "inappropriate" questions before submitting a final list a week or so in advance. The foreign media's questions also were selected by the Japanese Club.

Major takes it easy in Portugal

LISBON (AFP) — British Prime Minister John Major, currently taking a few days vacation in northern Portugal, spent Monday ambling through the capital's quaint little streets. Earlier, the prime minister, who arrived Saturday, went on a sailing trip along the River Tagus.

Mother Teresa feels better

NEW DELHI (R) — Mother Teresa of Calcutta, recovering from malaria at a New Delhi hospital, was progressing well Tuesday, a hospital bulletin said. "Mother Teresa had a comfortable night. She had no fever. She is taking her normal feeds. Her progress is satisfactory," a spokesman at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) said. The Nobel Peace Prize winner, who turns 83 Friday, is being treated by a team of senior consultants at AIIMS, New Delhi's premier hospital, after she was admitted there with high fever last week.

Bulgarian king's heart reburied

SOFIA (R) — The reburial of a human heart presumed to be that of Bulgaria's King Boris has left a trail of unanswered questions worthy of the most complex Balkan thriller. How did Boris die? Was he murdered and, if so, by whom? And what happened to the rest of his body? The heart, found in a garden of one of the royal palaces two years ago, was reinterred in a brief, surprise ceremony, five days before the scheduled commemoration of the king's death attended by his 85-year-old widow Ioanna. Ioanna, who lives in Portugal, asked for the burial to be held at the southern Rila Monastery before the return to Bulgaria Wednesday and refused offers of state protection and assistance. The family is keen that the reburial should not provoke political tensions by becoming a rallying point for a small but noisy band of supporters who would like to restore the monarchy in Bulgaria after 47 years.

Former Greek king ends visit

ATHENS (AFP) — Former King Constantine of Greece left his former homeland after a two week private holiday marred by public controversy. The former king and his family, who live in Britain, flew from the Aegean island of Santorini for the Spanish island of Majorca where they were to continue their holiday. His visit, his second in 26 years, led to strong criticism by the opposition and an angry outburst by President Constantine Karanmanlis. Speaking to the private Antenna Television network, the former king said he intended to return "soon" to Greece, without specifying at what date. He said he had "trouble understanding the turmoil and the lack of self-composure" which had accompanied his visit.